

Program & Order of Events
MIDDLETOWN AMISTAD DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021

The Middle Passage and the Amistad Uprising: Stories of Yesterday & Today

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**PART 1**  
**THIRD ANNUAL MIDDLETOWN MIDDLE PASSAGE AND  
PORT MARKER CEREMONY**

*Middletown has been designated as a Site of Memory by UNESCO as part of the international project, "The Slave Route: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage." Two ships, the Martha & Jane and the Speedwell, are documented as having arrived from Africa to Middletown's harbor with their human cargo that survived the treacherous transatlantic trade voyage that was the Middle Passage. Enslaved people helped build Middletown and this ceremony is being held to honor their contributions and the thousands who perished on the Middle Passage. The Middlesex County Historical Society has organized this ceremony annually since 2019.*

11:00 AM

**Libations, African Drumming and Dancing**

Performed by Nia Arts with accompaniment by Ron Edens

11:20 AM - 11:30 AM

**Words From the Original People of the  
Middletown Area, the Wangunks**

by Gary O'Neil, Wangunk Descendant, Elder & Educator

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**Welcome Remarks**

by Dr. Jesse Nasta, Executive Director,  
Middlesex County Historical Society  
*followed by*

**Floral Tribute to the Ancestors**

by Deborah Shapiro, Municipal Historian, and NAACP Youth  
& Other Children Attendees

**PART 2**

**WELCOMING CEREMONY FOR THE AMISTAD TALL SHIP**

*The visit of the Amistad Ship to Middletown will pay honor to and acknowledge the resiliency and determination of the Mende captives during the 1839 Amistad Uprising. Discovering Amistad recognizes the significance of their fight for freedom, and its relevance to social and racial justice today.*

12:00 PM - 12:25 PM

**Welcome Remarks**

by Mayor Benjamin D. Florsheim, Len Miller, Chair- Discovering Amistad  
Dr. Michael Conner, Superintendent MPS  
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and Elected Officials

12:25 PM

**Raising of Flags on Ship**

by Amistad Crew

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

**Performance by Nekita Waller with  
Hartford's Proud Drill, Drum & Dance Corp  
*followed by*  
On Ship Performance by Tammy Denease**

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

**Ship Tours and Roaming Dockside Education**

Hosted by Discovering Amistad Educators  
Ship tours take approximately 15 minutes per 40 passengers  
Timed stamped tickets are available at the ship's information table

4:30 PM

**Raffle Drawing for Educational Kiosks**

by Mardi Loman  
Visit each Educational Kiosk, receive a sticker from each, and enter the drawing for a prize. Once all 8 stickers have been collected, place your completed sheet in the drawing entry box located at Kiosk 1

4:35 PM - 5:00 PM

**Closing Performance  
by Jordan Watson**

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